

The Florida Times-Union

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FBI raids home of Trump's ex-campaign chief

Financial documents sought as part of Russia probe

By Chad Day & Eric Tucker
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON | FBI agents looking for financial documents have searched one of the homes of President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, whose past foreign political work

has been swept into the investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election. A Manafort spokesman confirmed the search Wednesday.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni said in a statement that FBI agents had obtained a warrant and searched one of Manafort's

homes, but he would not say when the search occurred or what it was for.

"Mr. Manafort has consistently cooperated with law enforcement and other serious inquiries and did so on this occasion as well," Maloni said.

The Associated Press has learned the warrant for



Manafort

the search on July 26 at Manafort's home in Alexandria, Va., sought information including tax documents and banking records. The Washington Post first reported the raid.

Manafort has been a subject of a longstanding

FBI investigation into his dealings in Ukraine and work for the country's former president, Viktor Yanukovich. That investigation has been incorporated into the probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is also scrutinizing Manafort's role in the Trump campaign as he looks into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and any possible collusion

with Trump associates. Manafort, who led the Trump campaign for several months, has denied any wrongdoing. He spoke behind closed doors to Senate investigators for an interview just one day before the search.

The use of a search warrant indicates that law enforcement officials have

FBI continues on A-4

Morris sells Times-Union to GateHouse

Sale, including 10 dailies, is expected to close Oct. 2

The Times-Union

AUGUSTA, GA. | As part of a strategic restructuring to focus its business on lifestyle publications, property development and new business, Morris Communications Co. announced Wednesday it has signed an agreement to sell the assets of Morris Publishing Group, including The Florida Times-Union, to GateHouse Media.

The sale includes 10 other daily newspapers, numerous non-daily publications, and associated websites and digital assets. The transaction is expected to close Oct. 2.

"We all will miss the Morris family and its steady oversight of our business for more than three decades, and its commitment to quality journalism," said Mark Nusbaum, president of The Times-Union.

"At the same time, we look forward to working with our new ownership at GateHouse, and assure our readers we will continue to provide thorough and comprehensive coverage of our community going forward."

"Since my father took a job as bookkeeper at The Chronicle in 1929, our family has been dedicated to journalism, and to the readers and advertisers in the communities we serve," said

GATEHOUSE continues on A-4

Council members seek workshop on deepening of river

By David Bauerlein
 david.bauerlein@jacksonville.com

Two City Council members say discussions about deepening the St. Johns River should come out from behind closed doors and move into public meetings for assessing the huge project that might require as much as \$150 million from the city.

The Jacksonville Port Authority said in June it will seek \$47 million to \$150 million from the city for the \$484 million undertaking. JaxPort also announced it will shorten the previously approved 13-mile dredging to 11 miles, which would require major upgrades to the Blount Island Terminal for relocation of one of the port's biggest tenants, TraPac.

Whether the city will agree to help pay for the deepening is beyond the current council's control because JaxPort doesn't plan to make an official

DEEPENING continues on A-4



Sheila Clifton DeLongis recounts the story of the afternoon of her daughter Maddie Clifton's disappearance. DeLongis was testifying on the third day of Joshua Phillips' resentencing for killing Maddie in 1998. (Bruce Lipsky/Florida Times-Union)

Phillips acknowledges 'horror' of Maddie's death

At a resentencing, weeping child killer faces family, says he considered suicide

By Eileen Kelley
 eileen.kelley@jacksonville.com

Joshua Phillips went into prison as a child. So it was inside buildings surrounded by barbed wire that Phillips became a man, raised by guards who bark orders until their shifts are over and another crew clocks in.

Phillips began that life in 1999 at the age of 15 when he learned — that day in and day out for the rest of his life — he would be behind the barbed wire and listening to the barking guards after being convicted of first-degree murder for the death of Maddie Clifton, an 8-year-old child and his neighbor.

"I do understand pain. I have become quite intimate with suffering. Growing up in prison, I've seen many dark things and I've been (in) some dark places," the killer began when he took to the witness at the Duval County Courthouse on Wednesday during his resentencing hearing.

Through tears, Phillips

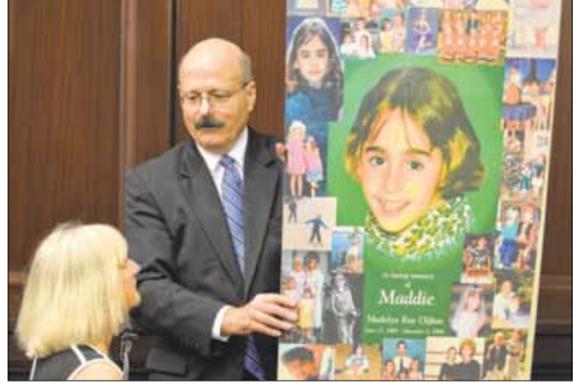
told the family and loved ones of Maddie how not a day goes by that he isn't reminded of the horror he put them through and the unbearable loss he caused.

"Many times throughout this journey, I've come directly close to ending my life just to escape it all. During these times I was embroiled in a flurry of emotions and feelings: guilt, despair, pain, hopelessness, fear and shame. Each time I was somehow able to continue on mostly because I couldn't stand for my mother to be put through any more trauma. She's been through enough trauma."

Phillips was 14 when he took a bat and repeatedly slammed it into Maddie's skull. He then shoved the little girl — a girl who'd switch in an instant from leotards and a tutu to a girl in cut-off blue jeans digging for worms — under his water bed.

After hearing her moan, he dragged Maddie out and finished her off by stabbing her

PHILLIPS continues on A-4



Clifton DeLongis (left) describes pictures in a collage of her daughter Maddie as Bernie de la Rionda, an assistant state attorney, stands by.



Joshua Phillips delivers his allocation apologizing to the families Wednesday during the third day in his resentencing hearing in the killing of 8-year-old Maddie Clifton 1998.

Weather
 Not as stormy
 Forecast on A-2

89 Today's high
 75 Friday morning's low

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The Jacksonville Port Authority wants to dredge the St. Johns River to a depth of 47 feet, something port officials say is critical to Jacksonville competing with other ports for shipping business. (Will Dickey/Florida Times-Union)

DEEPENING

Continued from A-1

request for any city dollars for another two years.

City Council members have raised pointed questions about the project, which some council members say has left them sidelined.

But no council member has come out flatly in opposition. The Jacksonville Port Authority green-lighted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to start dredging by early 2018.

Council members John Crescimbeni and Tommy Hazouri said it's time to open up discussions between the port authority and council members in public sessions.

"It would put everything on the table for the public to see, up close and personal," Hazouri said.

Crescimbeni said it would help separate "fact from fiction" in the conflicting information they've gotten from JaxPort, the St. Johns Riverkeeper organization, and local transportation consultant Dale Lewis, a critic of the dredging.

"We can at least have a discussion with everybody in the room at the same time," Crescimbeni said, "and everybody gets to hear the same questions and answers."

City Council President Anna Brosche said she will respond to the request for a workshop by the next council meeting on Aug. 22. She said she wants to determine what would be gained from having a workshop at this time when JaxPort has not submitted a formal request requiring council action.

It's not clear whether JaxPort would take part in a public discussion. After the St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit environmental organization, sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April to prevent the river deepening from starting, JaxPort entered the federal lawsuit as an intervenor and hired the Foley & Lardner law firm to represent the authority.

Herschel Vinyard, an attorney for the firm, wrote a July 28 letter to JaxPort leaders saying the port authority has taken part in years of public presentations, discussions and debates, but in light of the lawsuit, the port authority should focus on resolving that suit.

"Consequently, we also recommend that JaxPort suspend its public com-

ments regarding the project until the completion of the Riverkeeper's lawsuit to avoid impacting JaxPort and the public interest in that proceeding," Vinyard wrote.

JaxPort recently cited Vinyard's legal advice in declining an invitation from the Jacksonville Rotary Club to discuss the harbor deepening during a club luncheon.

Crescimbeni and Hazouri said the lawsuit shouldn't stop JaxPort from fielding questions from council members in an open session.

"If they really believe they can't comment, they should extricate themselves from the lawsuit," Crescimbeni said. "I think the priority is educating the council and the community, not seeking cover under the cloak of intervenor status in a lawsuit they were never party to."

The federal lawsuit won't be decided until next year.

At Hazouri's request, JaxPort agreed to submit quarterly reports on environmental monitoring and financial costs during the dredging.

The Times-Union reached out to all 19 council members for their positions on the harbor deepening.

Of those who responded, Councilman Aaron Bowman is the most rock-solid advocate for the project.

"It would be nice to have everything wrapped up in a nice package now and know exactly what the city is going to be responsible for and how we're going to pay for it, but we're also in a time-critical mode that other ports are going to get ahead of us and start stealing (cargo business) from us," Bowman said.

He said in his role as an executive at the Jax Chamber, companies that do global trade always bring up the port when considering Jacksonville. He said with cargo ships getting bigger, Jacksonville risks sliding into a pass-by port for those ships if it doesn't get deeper water.

"It's not a question of if we do it," Bowman said. "We've got to do it, so we're going to have to figure out how to pay for it."

Others want more information.

"They've orchestrated it in a way that we're not engaged until some point in the future," Councilman Bill Gulliford said. "We don't know what the actual number will be."

City Councilman Lori Boyer said it's frustrating council has no say-so in the decision to start the dredge. The port authority, which is an independent entity with its own board, already has enough federal and state funding to start the first phase of the project.

"I am disappointed that they have chosen to phase this process in such a way that they're not coming to the city for any approval prior to starting the project," Boyer said. "That's clearly the frustrating part."

She said she's not convinced the river's 40-foot depth needs to be dredged to 47 feet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that in terms of the national interest, the most cost-effective depth would be 45 feet, but the JaxPort board decided the added expense of going to 47 feet is essential to compete with other Southeast ports.

City Councilman Greg Anderson said he thinks JaxPort has a viable plan to pull funding from local, state and federal sources for the dredging, but the downside is council won't vote on it until after the project is under way. "That is a financial risk, in my opinion, because who can say what a future council will do," he said.

He said he is weighing the environmental impact and the economic benefits of deepening the ship channel.

"The piece that we've not heard enough about is the economic benefit," Anderson said. "We need to have a compelling case that says we should spend this money to get enough of a return. That's the part of the equation that I still have more questions about."

Councilman Matt Schellenberg said he doesn't object to JaxPort starting the project, but he wants to see a bigger benefit from dredging for him to support city spending on it. "Right now, I'm undecided," he said.

City Councilman Jim Love said job projections as a result of river deepening are debatable, but it's "common sense" that if Jacksonville doesn't have a deeper ship channel, it will lose current port-related jobs.

"To me, that's almost enough reason to do it, as long as we do it responsibly," he said. "I want to make sure they put aside enough money for any (en-

vironmental) mitigation that may be needed in the event it causes a problem."

Brosche said she supports the deepening because the port "is one of our assets, and I would like to make sure we remain in a good position to ensure it continues to grow and thrive."

She said she's not committing, however, to a "blank check" for whatever amount JaxPort requests, and it might end up being an amount that doesn't have a significant impact on the city's own budget.

Garrett Dennis, chairman of the council's Finance Committee, said JaxPort officials told him that when existing debt is paid off in a couple of years, money going toward those debt payments would be available for dredging.

"If it isn't an impact to the (city's) budget, I'm open to that," Dennis said. "We have to invest to grow. We can't continue to want to be a world-class city and not make the investments we need to be that world-class city."

Mayor Lenny Curry, who supports the river deepening, also referred recently to money that would be available after debt gets paid off.

"Here is what the city is prepared to do," Curry said in a meeting with the Times-Union editorial board. "We are prepared to be part of the plan for funding, and we have identified a way to do that at a certain time. It will not put any strain on our existing budget and our existing resources."

Chief Administrative Officer Sam Mousa said the city would use money that is already going to the port.

The city contributes almost \$10 million annually to the port.

About \$7.5 million of that funding goes to paying off bonds issued years ago for port improvements. That debt will be retired around 2020, so that funding could be used for other port-related work.

Boyer said she's heard that could be a funding source for dredging, but she doesn't know if it's enough, particularly when large-scale investments are needed at the cargo terminals.

"I think we need to look at it globally to understand how all those numbers work, and where we fit into the picture," she said.

GATEHOUSE

Continued from A-1

"Billy" Morris III, chairman of Morris Communications. "Although this has been a difficult decision for me, we have found a wonderful buyer for the newspapers in GateHouse, as they are strongly committed to providing good community coverage for readers and effective solutions for advertisers."

Under terms of the sale, Nusbaum will continue in his role as publisher of The Times-Union. Billy Morris will continue as publisher of The Augusta Chronicle and will oversee editorial-page policy for the three Morris newspapers in Georgia. The Morris family will retain ownership of The Florida Times-Union building and property consisting of 18 acres of waterfront property in downtown Jacksonville along the St. Johns River. The family is currently exploring options for development of the site for mixed use, including offices, a hotel or multifamily housing.

GateHouse Media is a division of New Media Investment Group, a publicly traded company (NEWM) on the New York Stock Exchange. It is one of the largest newspaper companies in the country, owning more than 130 daily newspapers and more than 500 non-daily publications across the United States.

"GateHouse is very excited to welcome the Morris publications and their employees into our company," said Michael E. Reed, New Media president and CEO. "For more than 80 years, the Morris family has built and operated an incredible collection of local media assets. We are honored that the family has chosen us to uphold the rich tradition of journalism and innovation they have established. This transaction will expand our footprint into new states and add some very attractive markets to our local media portfolio. We see strong synergies between our two companies and look forward to the value creation opportunity that

will exist as we combine the portfolios."

"Every newspaper company in America is battling trends and redirected advertising dollars, so it is necessary for newspapers to be part of a large newspaper group to build and maintain the necessary resources to compete," said Morris. "We are deeply grateful for the many friendships and business relationships we have enjoyed for these many years, and look forward to the impact the next generation will make."

William S. (Will) Morris IV, president and CEO of Morris Communications, said, "Although the decision to leave the newspaper business was a tough one for our family, we are enthusiastic about our plans to diversify our business holdings with print and digital communications, and real estate development. We have a solid team in place to take the business in a prosperous new direction."

Daily papers included in the sale, in addition to The Florida Times-Union, are The Topeka (Kansas) Capital-Journal, The Augusta Chronicle, the Savannah Morning News, the Athens Banner-Herald, The St. Augustine Record, the Amarillo Globe-News and Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in Texas, the Conway (Ark.) Log Cabin Democrat, and the Juneau Empire and Kenai Peninsula Clarion in Alaska.

Derek May, currently president of Morris Publishing Group, will take a new leadership role as chief operating officer of Morris Communications.

"I've considered it a blessing to be around such talented individuals who work for our company," said May. "These are great people, passionate about what they do and committed to their communities."

"We are enthusiastic about our current and future business ventures," Will Morris said. "With this sale, we will pursue a range of new possibilities. We intend to keep making a difference in the world, as we have for more than 80 years."

PHILLIPS

Continued from A-1

with a knife.

Seven days later after Phillips' mom had come home from canvassing an area with fliers for the missing 8-year-old, she made the gruesome discovery of Maddie entombed under her son's bed.

Missy Dunfee, Phillips' mother, sat almost motionless staring off into the distance as the details of the horror her son created played out in court Wednesday.

Phillips, now 33, is being given a chance to get out of prison. His case is one of 80 that are making their way back to the Fourth Judicial Circuit after the U.S. Supreme Court said it was unlawful to automatically send youthful offenders away for life because science shows that the brain is not fully developed until a person is in their mid-20s.

"I had no clue what life meant — what death meant — nor the depths of suffering that would follow one act," Phillips said Wednesday in court as Maddie's family and others broke into tears. "I had no inkling of how long suffering could last. I have lived long enough to understand what really suffering was."

"I did something horrible and I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. Even now after all these years, it is just so unfathomable that all this could have occurred. It tears my mind to know that I stole such a precious life from you — from the world. I wish I could take away your pain."

A nationally known psychologist and expert witness from Chicago, James Garbarino, testified that in his opinion, Phillips truly is remorseful — a step in the rehabilitation process. He said Phillips — at 14 — suffered from the psychodynamics of his family. He had a father who was emotionally and verbally abusive and a mother who suffered depression. He described the 14-year-old Phillips as teen who was socially isolated and estranged.

"He didn't feel connected to positive experiences

as an average teenager," Garbarino said. "He had feelings of hopelessness, despair, possibly suicide which is not surprising given the psychologically abusive treatment by his father."

Phillips' father is dead. Garbarino met Phillips in February and issued a series of evaluations. In spite of hearing all the details of Maddie's death and of Phillips' deception, he said Wednesday he could say with confidence that Phillips has been rehabilitated and the crime — as monstrous as it was — is not an indicator to how he will behave in society if released from prison.

"He has moved beyond that period and that will not become part of his life again," Garbarino said.

Assistant State Attorney Bernie de la Rionda asked Garbarino if he could guarantee that. The doctor whose dealt with 40 or so resentencing cases of juvenile killers said there are no guarantees.

"I feel pretty confident about him," he said.

Phillips cried during much of the doctor's testimony before taking the stand himself to address Maddie's family members, who since Monday, have filled three full rows of benches in the courtroom.

"I pray every day that you are able to live your life in spite of the injury I have caused you," Phillip's continued over the strains of dozens of people crying. "I'm supremely grateful to have an opportunity for physical freedom. If any joy arises in my heart, it's immediately tempered by knowing that these proceedings bring all of it up again — face-to-face — the horror that occurred in 1998."

"When I walk the rec (recreational) yard here in chains, I look to the skies through mesh wiring and I thank God repeatedly for giving me hope. But my next breath is always devoted to wishing peace and healing to you all."

The resentencing hearing is expected to wrap up Thursday. It's unlikely Judge Waddell Wallace will make a decision on Phillips' new sentence Thursday.

FBI

Continued from A-1

convinced a judge there is probable cause to believe a crime may have been committed. A house raid can be seen as an aggressive tactic given that Manafort has been cooperating with congressional investigators and has turned over hundreds of pages of documents. It could indicate law enforcement was looking for records beyond what Manafort provided.

Word of the raid is the latest revelation about Mueller's investigation, which had been operating in relative secrecy compared with numerous congressional probes looking at the election. In recent days, it's become clear the former FBI director is using a grand jury in Washington in addition to one in the Eastern District of Virginia, where investiga-

tors also have been looking into former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Also, FBI agents have been asking witnesses since the spring about \$530,000 worth of lobbying and investigative work carried out by Flynn's firm, Flynn Intel Group, according to a person familiar with the investigation. That work sought the extradition of an exiled Turkish cleric living in the U.S. Through his attorney, Flynn has declined to comment on the investigation.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive details of the investigation, said FBI agents have also been asking about Flynn's business partner, Bijan Kian, who served on the Trump presidential transition. Kian has not responded to multiple attempts to contact him.

In recent months, Flynn

and Manafort have turned over documents to congressional committees investigating the election interference.

One focus of the multiple probes, including Mueller's, is a June 2016 meeting Manafort attended with Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Donald Trump Jr. That meeting, held at Trump Tower in New York, was described to Trump Jr. in emails as part of a Russian government effort to help the Trump campaign by passing along information that could be used against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

During his Senate intelligence committee interview, Manafort provided his recollection of the Trump Tower meeting and turned over contemporaneous notes he took during the gathering. The interview was confined to that meeting.

Manafort has also

turned over other documents to the Senate intelligence committee as well as about 400 pages of records to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Committee said Wednesday it has also received about 250 pages of documents from Trump Jr. and about 20,000 pages from the Trump campaign. The content of the documents was not immediately clear. The committee said it received the Manafort and Trump campaign documents on Aug. 2 and the records from Trump Jr. on Aug. 4.

Judiciary committee leaders have also been in talks with Trump Jr. and Manafort about private interviews. The committee initially called for them to testify publicly, but lawmakers have since said they were negotiating the terms of their appearances.